APPENDIX IV.

[Vide item VII–B—52—Answer to Legislative Assembly Starred Question No. 787, dated 19th April 1960—Page 284 supra.]

Clash between some Policemen and students in Madras City on 19th April 1960.

On the 19th of April last, the Home Minister, while answering starred question No. 737 regarding a clash that took place on the night of 28th February 1960 between some Police constables and a few students at Purasawalkam in Madras City, informed the House that an enquiry into the affair was being conducted, and that, a detailed statement on the subject will be placed on the Table of the House later on. In fulfilment of that assurance, the following statement is placed on the Table of the House :—

About one hour before midnight of 28th February 1960, two students of the Law College, Madras, and two other students who were boarders of the Nadar Garden Lodge, Purasawalkam, went for a cup of tea at a hotel in Purasawalkam. For reaching the hotel they had to cross the road at a certain point. Just then, a Police constable attached to the Kilpauk Police Station was going along the road on a bicycle without a lamp. The Police constable stopped the students and asked them why they were obstructing the traffic. The students denied that they were obstructing the traffic. At the same time they drew his attention to the fact that he was riding a bicycle without a lamp. The remark seems to have roused the anger of the constable. He wanted that the students should accompany him to the Kilpauk Police Station. The students refused to obey his direction saying that they had not committed any offence and that if it was necessary that they should go to a police station, then they would go to the Vepery Police Station which was nearer to the place than to go to the Kilpauk Police Station. Thereupon the constable caught hold of one of the students by his shirt and dragged him. The other students protested against the action of the Police constable and asked him not to touch them. The student, in question, extricated himself to find that the shirt had been torn. In the scuffle, the constable's shirt was also torn.

A taxi driver, who passed by in his taxi, was asked by the Police constable to report the matter at the Vepery Police Station. He did so. Some one else seems to have told the sentry of the office at the Superintendent of Police, Special Police Establishment, which is situate near by about the scuffle between the students and the constable. The sentry passed on the information to the control room. The result was that a little later, four Police constables from Vepery Police Station went to the spot, beat the students with lathies and tied their hands together. Meanwhile, the control room party went to the spot and took the students and the Police constable of the Kilpauk Police Station to the Police

Station, Vepery. Some time later, the students were taken to the Government General Hospital where they were treated as out-patients. The injuries sustained by the students were certified to be simple.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Madras, Western Range, conducted a detailed enquiry, into the incident. Pending the enquiry, five Police constables who were suspected to have been involved in the affair were suspended from service. After considering the evidence gathered in the enquiry the Assistant Commissioner recorded his finding that there was sufficient evidence to show that out of the several constables (including the Police constable of the Kilpauk Police Station) three Police constables did beat the students without any justification. The three Police constables have therefore been dismissed from the force.